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REMARKS**Claims 1-8, 10, 11-13, and 16-20 are Allowable**

The Office has objected to claims 9 and 15, at paragraph 2 of the Examiner's Answer mailed June 13, 2007 in response to the Appeal Brief filed February 5, 2007, as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended base claim 1, incorporating the elements of objected to claim 9. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 7 and 10 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Claims 2-8 and 10 depend from allowable claim 1, and are therefore allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 1.

Applicants have amended base claim 11, incorporating the elements of objected to claim 15 and intervening claim 14. Therefore, claim 11 is allowable. Claims 12, 13, 16, 17 and 20 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Claim 16 has also been amended to depend directly from claim 11. Claims 12-13 and 16-20 depend from allowable claim 11, and are therefore allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from claim 11.

Applicants thank the Examiner for these allowances.

Applicants have canceled claims 9, 14-15 and 21-40 without prejudice or disclaimer.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have pointed out specific features of the claims not disclosed, suggested, or rendered obvious by the references applied by the Office. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the pending claims.

Any changes to the claims in this amendment, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

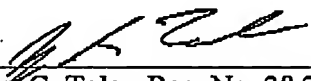
Attorney Docket No.: 1033-SS00424

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if such a call would in any way facilitate allowance of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

8-13-2007
Date


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